Blog Post #2

What is it?

Net neutrality is the idea that everyone has equal access to the internet no matter who their provider is, and the provider cannot do anything to inhibit use of the applications. Net neutrality offers discrimination free internet service to everyone. Without this, there would be much inequality on the internet as big companies could control everything that we access.

A Short Timeline:

In 2010, the FCC enacted the Open Internet Order to prevent large telecommunication firms from dominating the internet in any way they wanted, and to keep the internet as free from discrimination as possible." The DC district court ruled in favor of Comcast's inapproval of net neutrality regulations. In 2011, the FCC decided not to reclassify and find others ways to initiate "Open Internet." In later 2011, the Open Internet Order gets published in the Federal Register, to which Verizon then

challenges the order. In later 2013, the DC hears arguments about the Verizon's right to challenge the FCC Open Internet Rules.

In early 2014, the DC Circuit overturns the Open Internet Order, but this then makes it so the FCC cannot classify the internet as an information service. The FCC later announced that they were going to attempt to create new network neutrality rules that appealed to the DC Circuit, but didn't close the Title II (What's Title II? See http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/47/20.15 for more information) reclassification document. In June 2013, the FCC investigated Netflix paying Comcast and Verizon to improve slow videos on their site. The fight for net neutrality continues on throughout the rest of the year by Americans until November when Obama personally endorsed for rules to be permanently added into Title II. On January 16th, 2015 the Republicans release a discussion draft that addressed the FCC about its authority over net neutrality. On February 26th, the FCC will vote to save net neutrality or to let Comcast and other providers create slow lanes on the internet. If there is success, it will be a huge victory in favor of having true net neutrality. (To see a fantastic timeline, go to http://whatisnetneutrality.org/timeline)

What would happen with and without it?

If we did not have net neutrality, companies could control the content that we are able to see, and how fast the content appears, especially on high data using servers like Hulu or Netflix. Companies that are very wealthy could afford to pay more so that you would receive faster content than the smaller companies. They would have the ability to control all the content that flows through your browsers, specifically controlling the content that you access, speeding up sites that bring in a much higher revenue, as people would be more likely to use them, and slowing down or denying access to sights that don't bring quite as much.

As the information provided through the internet grew substantially and the larger companies became the dominant service providers, they realized that they had to the ability to prioritize certain websites over other and began to abuse their powers for increased revenue. Americans soon began to demand for actual regulations rather than just an assumption of the internet rules. With net neutrality, we have the ability to use the internet without any drawbacks, and have equal use of it, no matter who the provider is. It should be a right.

Myself?

Net neutrality to me, is a human right, freedom of speech and press. I should be able to visit sights I want and do what I want on the internet. There's many reasons as to why it is so important thar don't necessarily apply to me, but to many others out there. Want to start your own business with an internet site? Without net neutrality, that will not be able to happen. The big companies will make your site slow and possible impossible to access. Someone as small as the average person will have no might to the huge providers, and will show no competition. Want to promote any kind of issue present in society like gender discrimination, color discrimination, human's rights and more? That may be just as impossible with the providers being able to control people's access to those kinds of pages. Without net

neutrality, as much as the internet is used now, we will suffer. The internet helps to promote progression of human's rights and even single individuals, and I strongly promote this.

As cable and phone companies are trying to weaken rules, and even congress fights against the FCC, we must continue to keep protesting, and keep speaking out about net neutrality to try and make a difference. Outcries make a difference.

Do you want to see why you should be in support of net neutrality? Go to http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/innovations/wp/2015/01/20/eight-reasons-to-support-congresss-net-neutrality-bill/ to see more reasons on why you should be in support! Do you want to donate to help the cause? Visit http://www.savetheinternet.com/sti-home to help the cause of maintaining your human rights.

Works Cited:

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* THE REST OF THIS MESSAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR A LOW MONTHLY FEE.

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SUPPORT NET NEUTRALITY